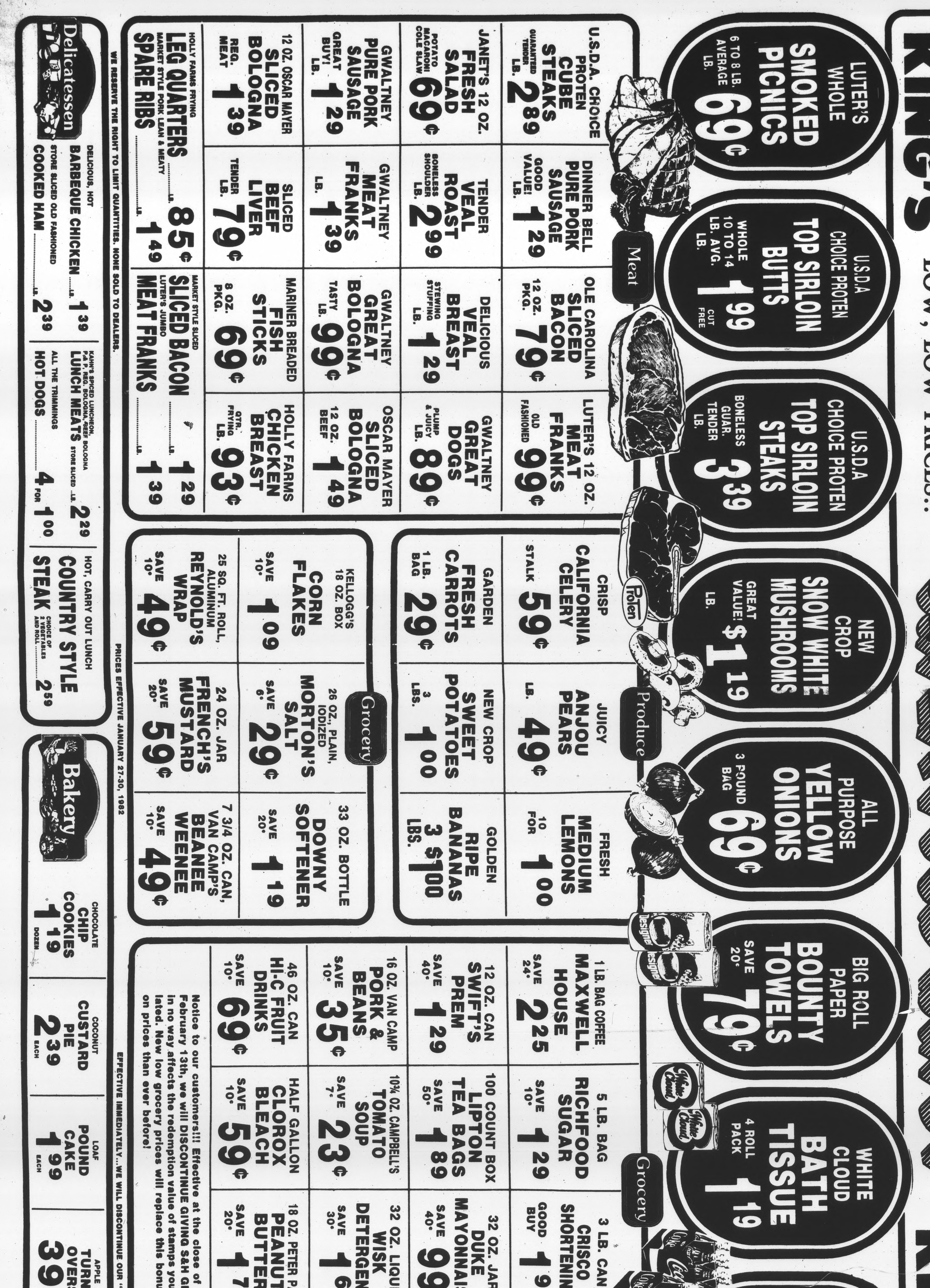

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

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Saving is an 'art' with local Coupon Queen, Robin Britton

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

Everywhere you go, people are talking about the high cost of living.....talking and complaining. But, there is one lady here in Appomattox who is doing something about it and enjoying every minute of it.

Robin Britton, the wife of Town Manager William R. Britton, is a most unusual homemaker. She may very well be 'Coupon Queen' of Appomattox, but she is more, much more. Robin does all her housework, her homemaking tasks, from her wheelchair. She even gets in her van, wheelchair and all, (without help if necessary) and heads for the grocery store.

Robin, stricken with Multiple Sclerosis in January of 1972 has been confined to a wheelchair since October of 1973.

An "Army Brat", born at Fort Meade, Maryland, Robin attended Virginia Intermont College, transferred to Longwood College, graduating in June of 1971 ready to begin her teaching career. She began teaching at the beginning of the school term in 1971 and taught until January 1972 when she became ill.

The next ten years consisted of hospital stays, doctors and more doctors, tests, more tests and waiting. For what? She didn't know. Her future was uncertain, but she didn't give up; courage was her middle name.

"Oh", smiled Robin, "there have been times when I have felt like kicking and screaming. I suppose everybody has days like that."

Discovering you have MS in the very beginning of your teaching career is enough to cause almost anyone to literally "come unglued", so to speak, but that wasn't all that Robin Britton had to face.

On January 8, 1981 Bill and Robin's home near Prospect burned to the ground. Everything was lost, clothing, furniture, appliances, and all those irreplaceable things.....pictures, mementoes, things that money can't buy. All gone. But Robin's courage was still strong.

While their new home is being built, Bill and Robin are living in an apartment on Ferguson Street in Appomattox, and Robin is keeping busy......"couponing," in addition to her other responsibilities.

"My grandmother....everybody calls her "Mam-Mam" and my Aunt Bessie who live in Pennsylvania, have been saving coupons and labels for years and when my sister and I were children we loved to look at them," smiled Robin.

"At first friends laughed at my taking couponing so seriously." "But," she continued, "when couponing became the 'in' thing and everybody was doing it, they didn't laugh quite so much."

"Three things are essential if one is to be successful at couponing," continued Robin; "time, patience, and space."

Robin, who has been couponing for approximately six or seven years is very organized with her couponing business. She has the coupons and labels divided in categories. There's Health and Beauty, Detergents, Beverages, Salad Dressings, Paper Products, Pet Foods, Meat, etc.

On January of this year, (Double Coupon Day), Robin saved $49.96 on a grocery bill totaling $111.23.

"I save most of the money I get from couponing for myself," smiled Robin. "It makes me feel good; I've worked for it and I feel I've earned it."

It takes Robin a few days to get ready for a day of couponing. Her average shopping time on double coupon day is approximately four hours.

"Mr. Wilbun, of Wilbun's Market, is due all the credit for having double coupon day and for letting me have such a good time shopping."

While Robin is sorting her coupons for a day of shopping or taking care of some other household chore, she has a constant companion; Hans, a five-year-old Weimaraner.....a big beautifully trained dog.

When Robin is moving from one area of her home to another in her wheelchair, all she has to do is say, 'Excuse me, Hans,' and the dog moves. She even puts him through a series of manuvers with a wink of an eye.

There's no doubt about it, Robin Britton doesn't lack for coupons; most important of all....she doesn't lack courage.

THE "COUPON QUEEN" of Appomattox, Robin Britton, pauses during her shopping for a moment of humor. Britton, who has raised the art of coupon clipping to a science, recently saved almost $50 on a grocery bill totaling more than $111. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

Board to meet

The Appomattox School Board will meet next Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 3:30 p.m. in the school board office on Main Street.

Salary proposals from the ACEA and AFT for the 1982-83 school session will be presented at the meeting.

Board members will also review plans for preparing Pamplin students and their parents for transfer to Appomattox Primary and Elementary Schools next session.

County launches Heart Fund drive

'Have a heart, Appomattox, won't you?' This is the plea of the American Heart Association.

February has been designated as American Heart Month for Appomattox County and all Appomattox County residents are being urged to support the 1982 campaign which is being conducted nationwide.

The goal for Appomattox is $4,800. With the money collected here and from all other towns, cities and communities over the nation, the American Heart Association will fight America's Number One Killer.

Did you know that heart disease, stroke and related disorders kill more Americans than all other causes of death combined? Each year, nearly one million American deaths are attributed to these diseases. That's more deaths than are caused by cancer, accidents, pneumonia, influenza and so on.....all combined.

The American Heart Association is a nonprofit voluntary health agency, supported solely by private contributions and not government tax dollars, whose mission is to reduce early death and disability from heart disease, stroke, and related disorders. It does this by supporting research, professional and public education and community service programs.

The American Heart Association, made up of two million people volunteering to fight for your life....doctors, nurses, scientists, teachers, your neighbors; they're all working hard. Why?

So, that a child with a hole in his heart can grow up to live a normal, healthy life. So that 35 million Americans with high blood pressure can have a fighting chance against heart attack, stroke and kidney failure.

So, that new advances in open heart surgery can save thousands who otherwise might not live.

There's more. They're working so rehabilitation programs for stroke and heart attack victims can help restore them to useful, meaningful lives. So new methods of diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of heart disease and stroke can be discovered. So the nearly one million deaths every year from diseases of the heart and blood vessels can be reduced.

Did you know that of the nearly one million deaths each year from heart disease, stroke and related disorders, 200,000 occur before retirement age. Early death and disability. That's the problem, and that's the reason the American Heart Association urges you to 'Put your money where your heart is.'

Janie W. Dowdy is Executive Director of the American Heart Association for the Piedmont Division. In Appomattox County, William Sherrod of the **Times-Virginian** newspaper is Business Chairman; Lloyd Vaughan of the **Appomattox Office Supply** is Special Gifts Chairman; Delores Hopkins is Memorial Gifts Chairman; Frances H. Paulette, of the **Times-Virginian** newspaper is Publicity Chairman and Jean LeGrand of **Central Fidelity Bank** is Treasurer.

So, Appomattox, have a heart. When an American Heart Fund Volunteer comes calling, give generously.

Remember, the Heart Association is fighting for your life!

Bulls average $1,322

A large crowd attended the 10th Annual Red House Senior Bull Sale last Saturday.

There were 73 bulls selling for $96,500. These bulls averaged $1322. The 17 Polled Hereford bulls brought $16,550 and averaged $974. The 6 Charolais totaled $8,475 for an average of $1412. Twelve Simmental averaged $1430 for a total of $17,675 and 38 angus sold for $53,800, averaging $1416.

Appomattox buyers were Wallace Moore, William and John Alvis.

Plaques were presented consigners with the top performing bulls by Farmers National Bank. Receiving plaques were Marland Farm who consigned the top performing Simmental, Knoll Crest Farm, the top performing Polled Hereford and Maymont Farm had the top performing Angus bull and high performing group of three or more bulls.

Discussion on curriculum set

Parents of students in the present 7,8,9,10 and 11th grades in Appomattox County Schools are invited to participate in a discussion pertaining to course offerings for the 1982-83 school session as scheduled below:

DATE	time	PLACE	Present Grade
Thursday February 11, 1982	9:05 - 9:55 a.m.	Auditorium, ACHS	9
	10:05 — 10:50 a.m.	Auditorium, ACHS	10
	10:55 - 11:45 a.m.	Auditorium, ACHS	11
	1:15 - 2:10 p.m.	Cafeteria, AMS	8
	2:10 - 3:05 p.m.	Cafeteria, AMS	7
Thursday, Feb. 11, 1982	7:30 p.m.	Library, ACHS	7,8,9,10,11

The purposes of these meetings are to familiarize parents and students with the course offerings and registration procedures for the school year 1982-83. Personnel from the schools and the school board staff will be present for the discussion and to answer questions. It is hoped that every parent will plan to attend one of the discussion meetings that has been scheduled.

Registration for courses by students for the next school year is to begin Thursday, February 11 and end on Friday, February 19. Guidance counselors in the Appomattox Middle School and Appomattox County High School will then, through personal and group sessions, aid students in their course selections for their high school years. "It is very important that parents be familiar with the many course offerings that are available, and be in a position to help their children in the selection," explained Mr. Lloyd Walton, superintendent of schools. Final registration is to be completed by April 2, and further changes in courses will not be made unless it has been determined that there are unusual circumstances. The choices of subjects will be used to schedule classes and to determine staff needs for the 1982-83 school year.

Social workers recognized here

TOMMY DRINKARD of the Appomattox County Department of Social Services (Left) present four social workers at the local welfare office with pins of recognition for their years of service. The workers who received pins and certificates in the ceremonies included (from left) Eva Moore, Randy Williams, Merle Nash, and Richard Martin. Drinkard read a statement commending each of the pin recipients for their "dedicated service to the Department of Social Services." (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Martha Street, Monday, February 1. February came in with a rain that washed away recent snow, and this is typical of February. Unpredictable. Might have gone the other way. Actually, January brought us weather typical of February. I jot down the porch temperature as of 7 a.m., and during January had it from minus one to forty above. Tuesday, being Groundhog Day, I had no special plans save to stay indoors as much as possible. Maybe play an old recording of "Me and My Shadow."

Virginia's traffic death total for January was 45, and better than the 63 listed for January 1981. When, if ever, did we have a month with no traffic deaths? Good goal for our drivers.

* * *

Days are supposed to be getting longer, but not enough for me to notice yet. Would have to be hours longer to have time to get done all the chores and projects each of us has.

* * *

The ACHS boys basketball team lost one to Nelson County, but still has a great record for the season.

* * *

We have been through a spell making for difficult car driving. Snow, ice, sleet and then Sunday morning a heavy fog.

* * *

Correction: Allen Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Smith, plays the sousaphone, not saxophone in the Clemson Univ. Band. I presume the sousaphone was named for John Phillip Sousa, great band leader and composer of such songs as Stars and Stripes Forever and Washington Post March. I heard his band play in the 1920's.

* * *

Thanks to Mrs. Norma Moore for bringing me copies of The Pittsburg Post Gazette, The Washington Post and the Morgan County Messenger. Sorry to hear that The Philadelphia Bulletin has discontinued publication, after 134 years.

* * *

Be it noted that at 6:03 p.m. Sunday, January 31, I swatted my first housefly of 1982. The uninvited guest spent his last moments on a towel rack and made the mistake of lingering there while I went to the kitchen to fetch a swatter.

* * *

Bro. Charlie Carter, local collector and hobbyist, came by for a pleasant visit and showed a splendid collection of coins, books, clippings and such. Using a metal detector, he found many objects in this area, and collected a wide variety of things worth saving. Such as: An 1881 almanac only one and one-fourth by two inches in size; an 1845 church book, old letters, a metal badge from the last Confederate Reunion, held in Washington, D.C.; a Greeley-Brown campaign medallion; an 1888 Cleveland-Thurman Presidential Campaign Medallion; an 1828 Big Penny; 1854 token coins, other assorted coins and maybe most valuable of all, two U. S. coins with errors.

I read it, heard it or maybe dreamed it, but the story was that it was so cold smoke froze as it left the chimeny, froze into chunks that rolled down the roof and clogged the gutter. Wow. How cold was it? I thought there was a woodpecker at my feeder but was only sparrows with chattering bills as they tired to eat small birdseed. Your turn.

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya around A Growing Appomattox.

Post Office copes with weather

'Neither rain, nor snow, nor....'

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

"Neither rain, nor snow nor gloom of night shall keep us from our appointed rounds....."

The four carriers who provide service to the rural communities of Appomattox County, Wayne Lee, Route 1; Bill Sperry, Route 2; Billy Conner, Route 3; and Bill Williamson, Route 4, kept their appointed rounds during the recent spate of bad weather with a minimum of difficulty, according to Ora McCoy, Appomattox Postmaster.

Billy Conner, nicknamed "Tubby" by his fellow workers, has a distance of 76 miles to cover daily and on his route, there are 445 boxes waiting for the mail he hands out.

"I made the rounds," said Conner. I used snow tires with studs front and back."

According to Conner a set of tires has a life expectancy of five or six months for the route he covers.

"This is the worst 'spell' of weather I've experienced in the six years I have been a carrier," said Conner who has been with the Post Office Department for a total of 32 years.

"I remember January of 1975, just about like this," smiled Conner. "The roads were covered with a mixture of snow and ice, my vehicle skidded, went down through the woods, taking some trees in its path. The only thing I could think of was the possiblity of the car catching fire. I cut the key off and jumped out, ran back up to the road and waited. No fire......just a scared mail carrier! Luckily I escaped injury."

Another Bill, Bill Williamson, nicknamed "Bull Winkle", Route 4, has been a carrier for 11 years.

"I try my hardest to get the mail to the boxes on my route within 10 minutes of the same time each day. I don't want my friends on the route to have to come to the box more than once, so I try to maintain a regular schedule."

"About a month ago," continued Williamson, the brakes on my vehicle failed. I was coming up to an intersection and hit the brakes...... they went to the floor. I reached up and put it in low range before continuing into the road, hoping nothing was coming. I made it!"

"During this 'spell' of weather, some time I would travel five miles without seeing ground.....just ice and snow. Stopping at boxes was really hard. You always had the fear of skidding into a box. I've been lucky this year, haven't hit a single box," Williamson said.

Williamson resorted to a four wheel drive to cope with the icy roads.

Wayne Lee, serving the 94 miles comprising Route 1, has been a carrier since 1970 and has been with the Post Office Department since 1957.

Lee, along with his fellow carriers agrees that the people on the route are not just customers to be served, but friends.

"All the people on my route are just like family, they're good friends, there is no question about that," commented Lee.

Conner, agreeing with Lee about his feeling toward the families on his route had this to add, "I know my families, man, wife, children and in some instances, even the names of the dog or cat!" he laughed.

The carriers had nothing but praise for the men of the state highway department who maintained the roads on their routes.

"I want to say one thing," commented Lee. " 'Red' Harvey, and Dick Franklin of the highway department should be commended for taking care of the roads. They've done a good job."

Rain, sleet, snow......the Appomattox carriers keep their appointed rounds; seldom late and only rarely failing to complete the routes.

"I am indeed, proud of the carriers for the job they're doing," commented McCoy, Postmaster. "I am equally proud of the clerks; not one missed work because of the recent bad weather."